**NEWS FROM UNITED FOR ALL AGES – MARCH/APRIL 2022**

**A COMMON SOLUTION – SHARING HOMES AND BILLS**

After Covid, it’s hard to imagine that the world would become more turbulent. But it has: from the invasion of Ukraine to the mass migration of refugees to crises in housing and care, mental health and the cost of living. It’s times like these, though, that can lead to new solutions. One intergenerational response is sharing across generations. Sharing homes can support refugees, tackle loneliness, give young people a better start in life and reduce bills. Intergenerational living is an idea whose time has come.

**INTERGENERATIONAL HOUSING NETWORK – NEW OPPORTUNITIES?**

The announcement in the Government’s recent Levelling Up white paper of the creation of a taskforce to explore better housing options for older people provides an opportunity to promote and develop intergenerational living. It also links to similar references in the recent care white paper, to efforts across the country to regenerate and reinvent high streets, and the creation of age friendly cities amongst other initiatives.  The Intergenerational Housing Network held a special meeting last month to discuss how to make the most of the opportunities and challenge the status quo.

Key points included:

* Ensuring that the voices of older people and people of all ages are heard and listened to re what they want from where they live
* Joining up initiatives like those above is needed across national and local government and across sectors
* This is an opportunity to diversify and to meet diverse needs in changing communities
* We need to identify the benefits, how lives have been and can be changed by intergenerational living
* Planning is a big barrier and needs reform
* Loneliness is a big driver
* We need local champions who get it eg councillors
* The benefits of intergenerational housing include releasing family housing – not an either/or – as well as promoting community wellbeing
* There are lots of good models already out there eg Scarborough, Wakefield etc
* We need to be able to show that intergenerational housing is scalable, is about making better use of existing housing (eg social franchising of Homeshare) as well as new developments, and can deliver meaningful outcomes in the short, medium and long term

Key actions planned:

* Martialling the arguments/benefits in a short compelling statement for local and central government, champions etc (supported by other like-minded organisations/coalitions)
* Setting out clearly the range of intergenerational housing initiatives that can be developed and scaled up
* Influencing the Housing Minister Stuart Andrew, chair of the taskforce, and other taskforce members and advisers
* Working together on a short paper for each of the taskforce’s main workstreams – likely to be building the evidence, consumer preferences, attracting investment, and the planning system
* Linking to the town centres/high street regeneration agenda
* Providing alternatives and options for bigger investors
* Working in partnership with sector organisations like Housing LIN, ARCO, LGA etc
* Identifying and supporting work in progress such as the forthcoming LGA report on housing an ageing population

The Intergenerational Housing Network will work with its members and partners on the key arguments/benefits – watch this space.

PS ARCO has launched the Mayhew Review with the ILC-UK to assess unmet need amongst older people for housing with care such as integrated retirement communities. You are invited to [submit evidence](https://www.arcouk.org/press-release/calls-for-right-to-suitable-housing-for-older-people-as-review-launches-to-assess)

**RESOURCES AND EVENTS**

**Talking together** - Dr Gillian Sandstrom, formerly at the University of Essex and now at the University of Sussex, has recently conducted a research study on cross-generational conversations. She and her collaborators hosted over 100 conversations on Zoom (ie more than 200 people), about half of which were between people of the same age group (same-gen; 25-30 or 65-70), and half of which were cross-generational. The researchers asked participants to predict how their conversation would go, actually have a 15-minute conversation with a partner, and report back on how the conversation had gone.  The researchers asked about the benefits that people experienced from having the conversation, allowing a comparison of the benefits that were experienced during same-gen vs. cross-gen conversations.  The benefits questions, in particular, were driven by conversations with the Cares Family and United for All Ages. Gillian is hosting a meeting to share the results of the research study, and hear from third sector organisations about how they might be able to make use of these results.  Anyone with an interest in cross-generational conversations is welcome to attend the meeting on Tuesday 22 March, 3-4pm via Zoom: <https://universityofsussex.zoom.us/j/5411657821?pwd=ODd4eXhnL21FdnJyVmVrTU94S3hmQT09> Meeting ID: 541 165 7821 Passcode: crossgen  The meeting will be recorded, so if you can’t make it, but would like to access the recording, please email Gillian at [g.sandstrom@sussex.ac.uk](mailto:g.sandstrom@sussex.ac.uk)

**Lead intergenerational fairness -** SOIF are recruiting for a Practice Lead for their [Intergenerational Fairness Observatory](https://soif.org.uk/igf/) to support the growth of the practice and deliver impact. If you know any talented, values-driven people, with a senior policy background and track record in developing and delivering growth plans, who would be a good fit, then please let them know. More information about the role and how to apply is on the SOIF [website](http://soif.org.uk/jobs/).  **Applications close on Sunday 20 March 2022.**

**Generation Vax –** this new report from ILC-UK explores whether social media can help engage different generations with vaccination[Generation Vax: Leveraging intergenerational relations to increase routine vaccination uptake - ILCUK](https://ilcuk.org.uk/generation-vax-report/?utm_source=International+Longevity+Centre+-+UK+List&utm_campaign=3a8af57300-EMAIL_CAMPAIGN_2022_03_09_10_09&utm_medium=email&utm_term=0_8287a7c514-3a8af57300-444629313)

**The Essential Mix -** powered by Neighbourly Lab, this project is working to transform social connections within the UK by increasing the positive interactions that happen in communities between residents and essential workers. [Interactions | The Essential Mix](https://www.theessentialmix.online/)

**Crafting Connections –** The Together Project has launched a major new intergenerational arts and crafts exchange, pairing older people living in care homes with children. See three hits of happy here: [Home - Crafting Connections](https://craftingconnections.org.uk/)

**Sex and Ageing - join researchers, designers and experts to discuss designing for your future sex life and whether you can ever be too old for good sex at this debate at London’s Design Museum on 22 March:**[Designing for your future self: Let’s talk about sex - Design Museum](https://designmuseum.org/whats-on/talks-courses-and-workshops/designing-for-your-future-self-lets-talk-about-sex)

**The *LaST*** **Platinum Jubilee Resource Pack (Part One)** is free to download from [www.learningandsharingtogether.org.uk](http://www.learningandsharingtogether.org.uk). LaST are trialling the resources on Zoom with Year 5 children from St Peter’s CE School and residents and friends of Perry House sheltered housing scheme in Burnham and will be adding more resources in the coming weeks towards the Jubilee in early June. Follow them on Facebook <https://www.facebook.com/lastburnham>  and Twitter  <https://twitter.com/lastburnham>  For more information about the Jubilee Resource Pack and/or the LaST Intergenerational Programme, please email Shirley Shaw at [enquiries@learningandsharingtogether.org.uk](mailto:enquiries@learningandsharingtogether.org.uk)

**Planning ahead** – big events to look forward to and take part in this year: Global Intergenerational Week (25 April-1 May) led by [Generations Working Together](https://generationsworkingtogether.org/global-intergenerational-week), and Care Home Open Week (27 June-3 July) led by [Championing Social Care](https://championingsocialcare.org.uk/care-home-open-day/). The Intergenerational Linking Project is setting a challenge to young people and schools to link with their local care home in the ten weeks from 25 April to 3 July – more details [here](https://myhomelife.org.uk/community-engagement/intergenerational-linking/). Launching at the end of April will be Move & Groove, an intergenerational music and movement programme <https://www.moveandgroove.org.uk/> with ten pilots across England.

For more about the above and about United for All Ages and our work, please contact us.

All the best

Denise

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